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PRELIMINARY REPORT

REPAIR WORK IN CANADA

For

1919

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
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Dominion Statistician: R.H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S.
Chief, Census of Industry: J. C. Macpherson.

REPAIR WORK IN CANADA, 1919.

Ottawa, August, 1921. An important phase of Canadian industry is that covered by the various repair establishments. It is true that in practically every line of production a certain amount of repair work is carried on. In only a few cases, however, are separate industrial establishments operated for the purpose of making repairs. Amongst these the principal ones are automobile repairs, bicycle repairs, boot and shoe repairs, elevator repairs and jewelry repairs. In other lines, as for instance, agricultural implements, electrical apparatus, carriages and wagons, harness and saddlery, etc., the repair work is carried on in the same establishment as the production of new goods, except in a few isolated cases where establishments are devoted entirely to maintenance and repair work. A review of the figures collected for the year 1919 by the Census of Industry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reveals quite interesting facts relative to these industries. An attempt is being made to present the most important data in a comparative form for the various provinces.

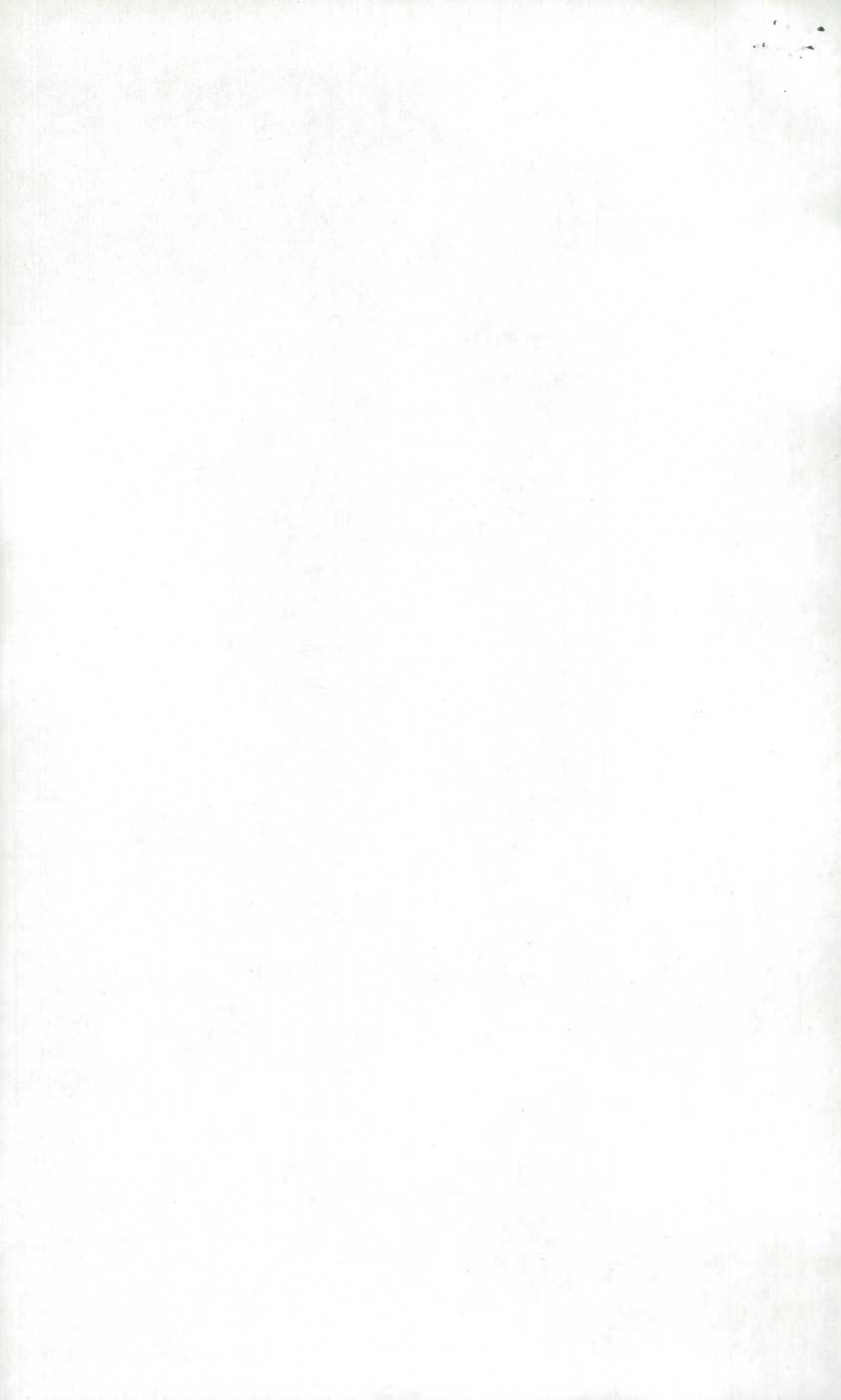
The total number of establishments for the Dominion was 3,290, divided by provinces, as follows:-

Alberta	185
British Columbia ...	248
Manitoba	172
New Brunswick	84
Nova Scotia	135
Ontario	1,652
Prince Edward Island	18
Quebec	574
Saskatchewan	222

In these establishments the total value of repair work reached the large sum of \$26,586,138. In order of importance this production is distributed as follows:-

Ontario	\$13,760,244
Quebec	4,820,461
Saskatchewan	1,866,096
Alberta	1,791,998
British Columbia ...	1,673,758
Manitoba	1,440,086
Nova Scotia	787,855
New Brunswick	310,557
Prince Edward Island	26,083

The working capital required to operate these establishments has been collected on the basis of actual capital employed, made up of the value of lands and buildings, in cases where owned, plus the value of machinery, tools and equipment and the amount of materials and other stocks normally carried. In establishments devoted to repair work the same condition is found as in those plants devoted to the production of new goods in the relation of capital invested and value of production, viz., that on an average a dollar of capital is required per dollar of production.



REPAIR WORK IN CANADA, 1919.

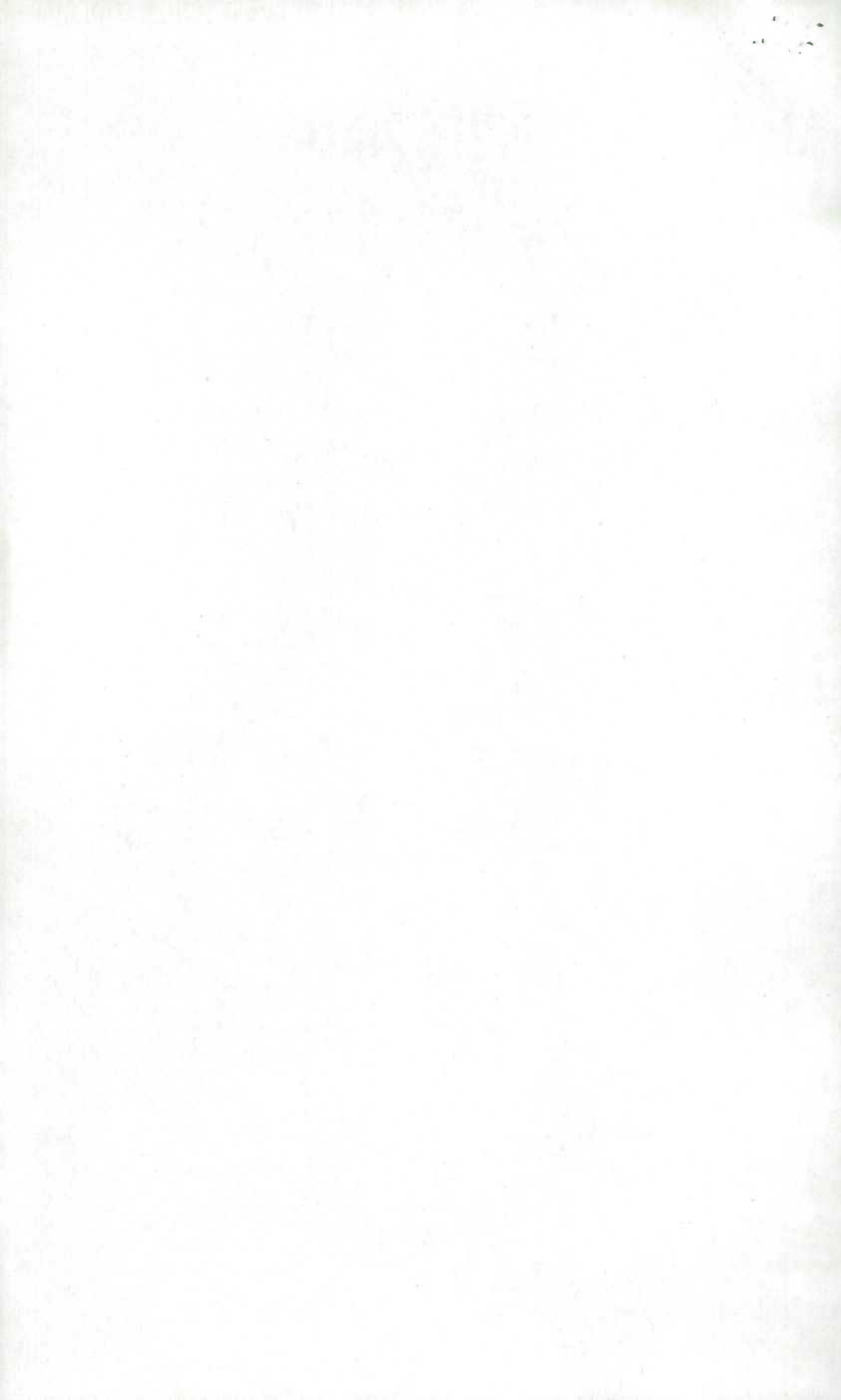
For the Dominion the aggregate investment was \$24,186,265, of which Ontario accounted for \$11,746,034, Quebec for \$3,821,118, Manitoba for \$2,175,769, Saskatchewan for \$2,062,021, British Columbia for \$1,730,861, Alberta for \$1,480,853, Nova Scotia for \$827,350, New Brunswick for \$326,864 and Prince Edward Island for \$14,895.

The number of persons finding employment in these establishments has been divided between wage earners and salaried employees, in other words, between the shop and office staffs. For the Dominion a total of 7,709 people were employed in the shops and were paid a total of \$7,480,604, while 1,299 people found employment in the offices and their remuneration for the year was \$1,301,607. The distribution of employees, salaries, and wages between the various provinces is given in the following table:-

Province	Wage Earners	Total Wages	Salaried Employees	Total Salaries
Alberta	487	\$ 539,305	72	\$ 80,958
British Columbia ...	557	567,671	29	36,874
Manitoba	457	461,495	34	40,325
New Brunswick	138	120,998	2	1,872
Nova Scotia	285	267,118	4	4,757
Ontario	3,728	3,635,660	345	573,898
Prince Edward Island	18	9,935	-	-
Quebec	1,597	1,377,592	750	474,865
Saskatchewan	438	504,830	63	88,058

AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS.

The automobile industry in Canada is divided into three main lines, viz., production of automobiles, manufacture of automobile accessories and the repair of automobiles. The total value of automobiles produced in 1919 was \$80,619,846. Added to this, accessory plants produced to the value of \$8,571,890, whilst in repair plants a total of \$11,991,020 was reached in the value of work done, making a grand total for that industry of \$101,182,756. On the other hand, whilst a total of 6,876 persons found employment in plants manufacturing automobiles for which they received a total wage of \$9,712,788, the automobile repair plants required a total number of 3,629 employees to whom \$3,728,414 was paid in wages. In comparing the number of employees engaged in automobile manufacturing plants and automobile repair shops, it must not be overlooked that whilst there are only 11 manufacturing plants, there are 1,239 shops devoted to repair work and that these are to a large extent individual establishments where the owner is himself a mechanic and replaces a wage earner. Another important factor in the automobile repair industry is that of materials used, which for the year 1919 amounted in value to \$4,375,085, of which the largest proportion consisted of automobile parts manufactured by producers of automobiles. The cost of automobile repairs



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distributed over the various provinces in order of value is as follows:-

For the Dominion	\$11,991,020
" Ontario	5,589,420
" Saskatchewan	1,446,597
" Quebec	1,422,389
" Alberta	1,247,459
" British Columbia	873,260
" Manitoba	820,736
" Nova Scotia	402,462
" New Brunswick	185,373
" Prince Edward Island ..	3,324

BICYCLE REPAIRS.

A total of 136 shops were engaged in bicycle repair work during the year 1919. The total value of work amounted to \$532,564; the greater part of this work was performed in the province of Ontario which accounted for \$318,500 in 84 establishments. The balance of production was distributed between the various provinces as follows:-

Alberta	\$11,875
British Columbia ...	43,016
Manitoba	78,265
New Brunswick	6,733
Nova Scotia	11,915
Quebec	21,850
Saskatchewan	40,410

There were no purely bicycle repair shops operated in Prince Edward Island.

Materials to the value of \$156,350 were used in repair work and of this amount \$94,290 was employed in Ontario. In the 136 plants devoted to bicycle repairs the total amount of \$174,181 was paid to 205 employees, the largest expenditure for this purpose being in Ontario and amounted to \$105,975 paid to 124 employees.

BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRS.

A survey of the boot and shoe industry shows that a very large number of repair shops are now equipped with modern machinery. Slightly more than half of the shops possess power-driven stitching machines and finishing shafts, whilst an additional 10 per cent are equipped with finishing shafts only. A couple of decades ago a well equipped cobbler's shop necessitated an investment of some \$300 or \$400, though sufficient equipment to open a repair shop could be procured for an investment of \$50. Since then the introduction of machinery in the boot and shoe repair line has made it necessary for a much larger capital to be placed in the operation of these establishments. Today a fairly well equipped shop would require at least a stitching machine and finishing shaft, in addition to the old time patcher, which was about the only machine then in use. Special nailing machines are now built for the repair trade and a number of other time-saving mechanical devices are on the market, such as welt makers, channelling machines, skivers, etc., so that a thoroughly equipped establishment today would require an investment of some \$5,000.00. The actual valuation of machinery at present installed in boot and shoe repair establishments is reported for Canada at \$436,424, which divided amongst 1,125 establishments amounts to an average of \$388 per establishment. The total of all capital invested in repair establishments in the Dominion amounted to \$1,677,408, of which Ontario

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accounted for \$822,271, Quebec \$346,234, British Columbia \$167,657, Alberta \$128,979, Nova Scotia \$71,019, Saskatchewan \$63,291, Manitoba \$48,487, New Brunswick \$22,570 and Prince Edward Island \$6,900. The production of leather boots and shoes is carried on in 161 individual plants where the total production was reported as \$63,319,128 for the year 1919. In repair shops the total production amounted to \$3,241,004 and of this sum Ontario accounted for \$1,612,689, Quebec \$541,475, British Columbia \$343,740, Alberta \$218,835, Saskatchewan \$166,314, Manitoba \$141,698, Nova Scotia \$129,812, New Brunswick \$78,017 and Prince Edward Island \$8,424.

In boot and shoe repair shops a large number are known as "one man shops", that is, where no employees are kept. The help employed during 1919 was on an average 1,470 persons receiving a total remuneration of \$1,249,397. Of this amount Ontario paid \$637,397 to 731 workers. The distribution in the other provinces was as follows:-

Quebec	272	paid	\$183,066
British Columbia	134	"	130,509
Alberta	87	"	90,579
Saskatchewan	59	"	62,986
Manitoba	69	"	61,185
Nova Scotia	69	"	50,466
New Brunswick	40	"	30,374
Prince Edward Island	7	"	2,835

The materials consumed in this industry were valued at \$1,174,756, distributed in order of importance as follows:-

Ontario	\$571,604
Quebec	211,167
British Columbia	133,336
Alberta	76,412
Saskatchewan	56,328
Nova Scotia	49,481
Manitoba	45,053
New Brunswick	28,117
Prince Edward Island .	3,258

ELEVATOR REPAIRS.

The increasing use of elevators in public buildings of all kinds has of recent years brought about a very marked development in this branch of rapid and convenient transit. Today a large number of modern high-speed, electrically driven elevators are in use in all parts of Canada. For fast operation dependency is largely placed on elevators which are capable of starting and stopping rapidly. Constant wear on vital parts necessitates regular inspection and frequent renewal. Modern methods of inspection and control are such that very seldom do we hear of an elevator accident. In this line of repair work very little shop or bench work is carried on, most of the needed repairs must take place on the elevator itself, and to a large extent the shops are only the starting point from which mechanics are despatched to the various places where work is to be performed. Fourteen such establishments are devoted entirely to the repair and upkeep of elevators in Canada. The capital investment attains a total of \$1,042,302. The value of elevator repairs carried on in the year 1919 is reported as being \$1,321,280. In this industry 252 persons found employment and received in return wages amounting to \$306,420. The larger part of materials used consisted of parts and cables which reached in 1919 a total cost of \$609,711.

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JEWELRY REPAIRS.

In covering those establishments engaged in jewelry repairs, watch makers and jewelers alike were included in the compilations. During 1919 the Canadian public paid \$9,400,270 to their respective jewelers and watch makers for the upkeep and repair of clocks, watches and jewelry. Of this total the people of Ontario contributed \$5,507,158, whilst for Quebec the total reached \$2,595,240, for British Columbia it was \$314,539, Manitoba \$314,302, Alberta \$243,726, Nova Scotia \$192,587, Saskatchewan \$177,949, New Brunswick \$40,434 and Prince Edward Island \$14,335. The cost of materials used in jewelry and watch repairing during the year 1919 was \$3,605,058. The distribution of this amount by provinces was as follows:- Alberta \$52,394, British Columbia \$83,710, Manitoba \$78,580, New Brunswick \$5,085, Nova Scotia \$80,388, Ontario \$2,393,237, Prince Edward Island \$2,431, Quebec \$882,619 and Saskatchewan \$26,614.

In the compilation of capital investment for these establishments every care was taken that only those figures attributable to the repair work were included in the computation. In cases where jewelry retail stocks were kept the capital only included the value of machinery, tools and equipment used in repair work plus the value of materials used for the same purpose. For the Dominion the total investment under these heads amounted to \$7,270,361, distributed in order of importance as follows:-

Ontario	\$4,375,637
Quebec	1,729,372
British Columbia	368,250
Alberta	275,725
Manitoba	210,794
Saskatchewan	129,798
Nova Scotia	125,105
New Brunswick	49,960
Prince Edward Island .	5,720

The total number of wage earners employed in 1919 was 3,463 and to these the sum of \$3,319,761 was paid in wages. The largest payment was made in Ontario to 1,472 employees and amounted to \$1,677,537. The remaining provinces follow in the order of their importance:-

Quebec	1,477	\$1,080,783
British Columbia	141	142,999
Manitoba	128	137,435
Alberta	90	121,987
Saskatchewan	70	81,565
Nova Scotia	55	54,690
New Brunswick	21	17,015
Prince Edward Island	9	5,750

The foregoing brief resume of the principal branches of repair work throughout the Dominion emphasizes the importance of such as a factor in the productive industry of the country, the repairing process being essentially indistinguishable from production in that it permits the extended use of articles which would otherwise pass out of economic service.

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